



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME POLICY

1. Purpose

One of OAF's Principal Objects is the education of young people. OAF offers the Scholarship programme with a view to meeting that Principal Object. OAF's Scholarship programme is offered in conjunction with partner Colleges in the United States, and with partners on the ground in disadvantaged Pacific Island and Australasian communities.

The Scholarship programme aims to:

- provide the opportunity for young people to further develop their skills in their chosen sport, while providing an opportunity to complete higher education – opportunities that may otherwise not be available in their communities;
- provide the opportunity for young people to travel overseas to complete further education to develop skills to benefit their community;
- provide young people with opportunities to develop leadership and life skills which they can share with their community, and inspire other younger people; and
- identify promising young leaders within communities with the expectation that they will contribute to the development of their communities through promoting education, health and well-being.

OAF sees the Scholarship programme as an important part of meeting its Principal Objects, not only in education but also in leadership, health and well-being

2. Recipient Identification

OAF works with its partners including National Olympic Committees and other on the ground partners to identify potential scholarship recipients.

Those potential scholarship recipients are required to fill out an application form and demonstrate educational and sporting achievements, as well as the potential for leadership in their communities. They are also required to provide referees, and to be available for interview if OAF requires that.

3. Appraisal

OAF appraises scholarship applicants against four broad criteria:

- first, their sporting ability and achievements;
- second, their educational ability and achievements, and their planned course of study;
- third, their leadership abilities, and potential leadership in the community;
- fourth, how they plan to use the potential educational opportunity to benefit their community in future.

That appraisal process is made from the papers submitted by the scholarship applicants, from supporting papers, and where appropriate from interviews and other follow up work by OAF and its partners.

4. Relationship with partners

OAF through its relationship with its partners wishes to develop co-operation in the fields of leadership, education and health. OAF works with its partners to identify and encourage scholarship applicants, and to work to ensure that the benefits provided lead to benefits in the community.

5. Decision making

After OAF in collaboration with its partners, has identified suitable applicants and completed its appraisal, the OAF Board will determine whether or not the programme should proceed for any particular applicant.

At the commencement of each program, OAF will ensure that the decision making process is clearly communicated with its partner. Throughout the progress of the Scholarship programme unless stated otherwise, the OAF Board will be responsible for all decisions.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

All OAF Scholarship programmes are periodically monitored by OAF to ensure compliance with its Principal Objects and key performance benchmarks. The programmes are also evaluated once completed by each scholar to ensure that the Scholarship programme is delivering the best outcome to the scholar, and to the community. Upon completion of their studies, scholarship recipients are required to complete an Evaluation Form which assists OAF in monitoring the contribution that the scholar has made to his/her home country.

OAF monitors its projects through:

- ensuring that scholars are aware that if educational benchmarks are not met, the scholarship may be withdrawn, and undertaking ongoing review of the academic progress of its scholars against appropriate benchmarks;
- assessing the number of scholars who reach graduation;
- ensuring scholars are aware of the expectation that they will use their new skills and the opportunity provided to them to benefit their community by way of leadership and assessing their contribution;
- encouraging communication between scholars and OAF personnel throughout their scholarship experience and upon return to their home community to assess achievement of its Principal Objects;
- reviewing its selection criteria in light of the success of its programmes;
- regularly evaluating the long-term impact of the programme within the communities involved; and
- regularly engaging in dialogue with its partners, donors and communities to identify areas of success and address emerging challenges in the progress of the programme.

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